

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, lines 17-31 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

In some embodiments of the present invention, an incision having a controlled, predetermined length may be made in one or both of a target vessel and a graft conduit prior to creating an anastomosis between the target vessel and the graft conduit. (It should be noted that, although apparatus and methods for making a controlled-length incision will be described herein in relation to vessels between which an anastomosis is to be created, the controlled-length incision may be made in any tubular body fluid conduit in a patient.) Apparatus and methods for making a controlled length incision are also described, for example, in concurrently-filed, commonly-assigned U.S. patent application No. \_\_\_\_\_ (Atty. Docket No. 293/052) 10/678,405, filed October 3, 2003, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph at page 22, line 16 through page 23, line 5 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

With continued reference to FIG. 7, periphery 203 of aperture 202 in first conduit 200 is placed about connector 100. More particularly, conduit 200 is positioned so that distal members 124 penetrate and pass through the side wall of conduit 200 from exterior surface 206 to interior surface 204 as a result of, for example, compressing the graft against the tips of free end portions 126 with a tool 300 (e.g., the vein piercing tool described in John Logan et al. U.S. patent application No. ~~09/587,112~~, filed June 2, 2000 6,699,256, which

is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety), thereby forcing the free end portions to pierce through the graft wall. The sharpened tips of free end portions 126 of distal members 124 facilitate penetration of conduit 200 by members 124. The blunt rear surfaces of free end portions 126 resist withdrawal of members 124 from conduit 200 after members 124 have penetrated the conduit, like a barb. Conduit 200 may be additionally or alternatively directly sutured to connector 100. Alternatively, first conduit 200 may be secured to connector 100 by, for example, pinching, inverting, clinching, stretching, or any other suitable manner of attaching the graft to the connector, with or without glues, clips, or any other connector elements.

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, lines 7-9 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

Second connector 800 may be installed in aperture 602 of second conduit 600 prior to attachment of the first connector thereto. Second connector 800 may be a hollow annular connector used to hold open aperture 602 and to hold together the wall tissue of second conduit 600 about the aperture. Examples of apparatus and methods for installing a second connector in an incision in a second conduit (e.g., a target vessel) are described, for example, in concurrently-filed, commonly-assigned U.S. patent application No. \_\_\_\_\_ (~~Atty. Docket No. 293/052~~) 10/678,405, filed October 3, 2003, which is incorporated by reference hereinabove, commonly-assigned U.S. patent application No. 10/158,436, filed May 28, 2002, and Swanson et al. U.S. patent 6,602,263, which are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their entireties.